



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CUTTING TAXES IS BETTER THAN CREATING MORE TAX EXEMPTIONS**

Today, responding to the recent dramatic increases in property taxes, the City Council's Budget Committee examined several bills aimed at creating several new tax exemptions.

"Although any measure to reduce the tax burden on the Hawaii taxpayer is welcome, a better way to prevent these massive property tax increases from hitting the public is to just simply hold down spending and cut taxes," argues City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu).

"Over the past two years, the City Council increased residential property taxes, commercial property taxes – twice, vehicle taxes, and raised fees for the bus, garbage, and parks. As the only member of the council to vote against all tax increases, I welcome the City Council's newfound interest in tax relief. The simplest and fairest way of offering tax relief, however, is to hold down government expenditures with a spending cap and just cut taxes, rather than adopt a dizzying array of multiple exemptions."

Bills introduced by Djou to adopt a spending cap and debt ceiling for the city budget are still pending before the council's Budget Committee.

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